

Remarks

The Office Action contains the following rejections:

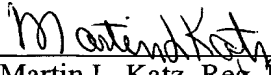
- 1) claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite;
- 2) claims 1-7, 9, 15-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,840,737 ("Phillips I");
- 3) claims 1-7, 9-11, 15-21, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,489,346 ("Phillips II"); and
- 4) claims 8, 10-14, 22 and 24-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips I or in view of Phillips II.

Phillips I and Phillips II each disclose the use of bicarbonate salts and do not disclose the use of carbonate salts in the formulations set forth therein. They do not disclose the use of both carbonate and bicarbonate salts as required by the present claims. Thus, neither Phillips I nor Phillips II anticipate any of claims 1-29 and these rejections should be withdrawn.

With respect to the Section 103(a) rejection, neither Phillips I nor Phillips II disclose or suggest the use of both carbonate and bicarbonate salts as is presently claimed. Thus, there is no motivation for a skilled artisan to obtain the subject matter of claims 1-29 and the Section 103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-29 as presently amended respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

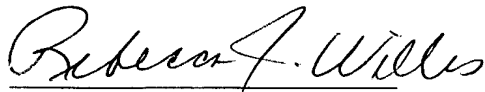

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Dated: November 10, 2004

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Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Box Non-Fee, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20-231 on November 10, 2004.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rebecca J. Willis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Rebecca J. Willis